

Cheryl Ann Orvis 1948-1988


Cheryl Orvis, a member and past president of our congregation, died on January 26 at the University of Iowa Medical Center, following a long and feisty battle against cancer and leukemia. Her loss is mourned by her lover, Beth, by her family and many friends, and by all of us at Sha'ar Zahav.

After serving on the Va'ad and as vice president, Cheryl became president at the congregation's stormy time, the summer of 1982. Controversy had so divided our membership that part would soon break away to form a new congregation, Ahavat Shalom. When Cheryl ended her term in 1983, the slow process of healing was well under way, and our own stability was so well re-established that we could begin the campaign to purchase our synagogue on Danvers Street.

Although she personally longed to see us in our own home, as president, Cheryl would permit no wishful thinking about the subject. Va'ad members remember the day-long meeting she called to consider the building purchase, when her consistent reply to suggestions was "How many hours will you commit to that?" At the Congregational Meeting that made the final decision, again she made sure: "Are you willing to give money? Are you willing to give time?" Our building is a tribute to her stubborn practicality.

As president, Cheryl also helped start up the search process that led to the hiring of Rabbi Kahn. Later, as a Va'ad member, Cheryl was a consistent voice for understanding and reconciliation. Her most recent service to us was a chair of the Past Presidents Council.

Sha'ar Zahav was not the only organization to receive the benefits of Cheryl's talents. As an attorney, Cheryl served on the staff of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights in Washington and the Council on Human Rights in San Francisco. She served on the board of the Golden Gate Business Association Foundation and was an active member of Hadassah and Bay Area Career Women.

Her organizational accomplishments, impressive as they are, are not the measure of what Cheryl brought to us. The warmth of her friendship, the breadth of her generosity, the way she combined frankness and eloquence, her wise sense of proportion, her wicked sense of humor and the brightness of her eyes, are things we will long remember. Cheryl, we will miss you. 



Another Gourmet Seder

By overwhelming demand, CSZ's Congregational Seder, on the second night of passover, will again take place at Lehr's Greenhouse Restaurant, 750 Sutter Street, on Saturday, April 2. The cuisine, lovely setting and warm ceremony that made our Seder such a success last year will make this year's event a sure sell-out, especially as we have managed to keep the cost down to \$20 for members, \$22 for non-members, and \$8 for children under 12.

Although strict Orthodox rules of kashrut are not followed, a vegetarian entree is available, as well as roast chicken and smoked roast beef. We will provide the traditional Manischewitz for the ceremony, but the hotel offers a selection of premium wines at various prices.

The seder will be as wonderful and as *haimish* as we can make it, and the Ritual Committee has promised a brand-new Haggadah, with no handouts. But space is very limited (honestly!) and reservations will have to be on a first come, first served basis. So please return the reservation form in this issue as quickly as possible, and definitely no later than Friday, March 25. Seating is general, but tables of 10 may be reserved at least seven days in advance. Financial subsidies are available for anyone who cannot afford to pay; just contact the treasurer, Eric Keitel at 239-8180.

Since both the subsidies and the children's tickets cost our synagogue money (and even the regular tickets do not fully cover the costs), we certainly could use your help. Please don't overlook the contribution space on the reservation form.

(Continued on page 3)

Owning Our Jewish Traditions

If Judaism is our cultural, religious and spiritual home, are you an "owner" or a "renter?" A renter, regardless of the length of tenancy, can never really settle in permanently. When a tenant wants to repair the kitchen or change the carpet, he/she must call the owner and get permission. The fixtures remain the same over the years. In exchange, a tenant does not have the burdens of ownership. The tenant does not have to repair the leaking roof or the crumbling foundation. Those are the owner's responsibilities.

We often act as if Judaism is only ours on a temporary basis and we do not have permission to make it into our own. Like a tenant who only makes superficial alterations, why get involved if one is only passing through? Many people appear to believe that there is some distant landlord who owns Judaism and controls what is permissible and what is not. If the place is not really yours, why be concerned about fixing it up or planning for the future?

When I meet with someone preparing for conversion, I explain that to become a Jew, the convert must come to see herself or himself not as a visitor or as a tenant, but as an owner and full partner in this wonderful legacy. Similarly, there

are many Jews who were born into Jewish families, but have never had a proper Jewish education or were cut off from our tradition. These too approach Judaism with the same attitude the prospective convert may start with—it can never really be mine.

I ask you to think of Judaism as your inheritance—like a wonderful, large old house which has been passed down to you. Each and every Jew has a share in the ownership, use, upkeep and future of this house. Do you want to paint the kitchen? Obviously, you will look at the existing color scheme and think about what will go nicely together. You do not, however, need to get your great-grandparents' permission before you proceed—because the house belongs to you. Upstairs are many different rooms, each one filled with books, songs, tools and traditions. Some are dusty, some outdated, yet many others are well-made and of enduring value. All are waiting for you to open, read, use and explore. The House of Judaism is not a fragile landmark in need of protection and preservation; it is a solid and contemporary dwelling which comes to life when it is occupied and used.

Along with the pleasures of ownership comes responsibility. We are not only inheritors, we are also the guardians of our heritage for future generations. Our task is to pass on a living tradition to our children and future generations, just as Judaism has been entrusted to us. Our inheritance includes all of Judaism—the parts we are not comfortable with or that are troublesome along with everything we like and are proud of. We have a concern for and obligations to Jews in other lands. We are properly concerned for and involved with the citizens, land and nation of Israel. Nor is our inheritance divisible—culture, people, language and religion are inseparably bound up together.

The Jewish tradition is truly a precious legacy. Gay and lesbian people, women, Jews-by-choice and others have been told that they are not full partners in the Covenant tradition. We empower ourselves and renew our heritage when we claim our birthright as our own.

—Rabbi Yoel Kahn

Office Notes

Call for Volunteers: We invite congregation members to become involved in the day-to-day support of the synagogue by volunteering in our office on an on-call or regular basis. We need help with mailings, errands and various fascinating light clerical work and projects. Benefits: a good cause, great company, and a grand overview of the goings-on at CSZ. To become a part, call the synagogue office.

The Jewish Gaily Forward is published 11 times annually by Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, (415) 861-6932. Permission to reproduce non-copyrighted material is freely given, and credit would be appreciated.

Members of the Congregation receive the *Forward*. For a donation of \$12/year, non-members will receive the *Forward*.

All newsletter copy should be typed, double-spaced and is due no later than the date of the Va'ad meeting. It should be sent to the synagogue office, marked to the attention of the *Forward*.

Members of the Newsletter Committee are Bob Goldware (Articles Coordinator), Peter Vishniac (Advertising Coordinator), Howard Blechman, Stephanie Hannaford, Alex Ingersoll, Garry Koenigsberg, Alita Rosenfeld, David Shaber and David Stein (general editorial and production); Amy Blasenheim (photos); Frank Hyman, Ben Schalit, Sam Thal and Eli Weinstein (distribution). The *Forward* is typeset by David Lester, Pagesetter Typography and printed by Lou Greene.

Display Ads are \$15 per column inch for non-members and \$10 per column inch for members, with discounts available for size and frequency. Ads should be camera ready; any ads that require typesetting, camera and/or artwork will be subject to a one-time production charge.

Classified Ads are \$5 for up to 20 words, plus \$1 for each 10 additional words. No personals accepted.

Payment must accompany ad and should be sent to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, marked attention *Forward* advertising. The advertising deadline is the 10th of the month. The *Forward* reserves the right to reject any ad for reasons of taste. For more information on advertising rates and charges, call Peter Vishniac at 553-8676.



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Sanctuary Service

Shabbat Hagadol, "The Great Sabbath," is the Friday before Passover. In the Reform tradition, this Shabbat is specially dedicated to social action. In honor of Shabbat Hagadol and marking the second anniversary of our Sanctuary Covenant, Manlio Argueta, El Salvador's foremost novelist and poet and a fervent social activist, will speak at Sha'ar Zahav at that Friday's evening services on March 25. Argueta will speak on the subject of oppression, freedom and current hopes for peace in Central America.

Argueta, who in 1977 won Latin America's most prestigious literary award, the Casa de las Americas prize, is the author of four novels including *One Day of Life* (1980) and *Cuzcatlán: Where the Southern Sea Beats* (1987), both published in the U.S. by Random House.

Born in San Miguel, El Salvador in 1935, Argueta was director of the University of El Salvador Press until the army closed the entire university in 1972, destroying its press, libraries and laboratories. Repeatedly jailed, then violently expelled from the country, he has lived in exile for most of the past 15 years. He is currently teaching a course on Central American literature at San Francisco State University.

Argueta's books document not only the continuing oppression of the Salvadoran poor but also the spiritual resistance which sustains them—a contemporary parallel with our own Passover history. His prophetic voice of anguish and hope will usher in *z'man cheruteinu*—"the Season of our Liberation." Please join us for this special Sabbath evening.

From Cheryl's Parents

Elaine and Alan Orvis have asked us to convey their feelings to the congregation.

Alan, Steven, Stanley and I want each and every one of you to know how greatly you have comforted us. The bridge of love you constructed with your outstretched hands enabled us to walk through the tragic days we shared together. If anyone asks us to define Humanism, we can tell them it is spelled "Sha'ar Zahav." We send our deep gratitude and much love to all of you.

—Elaine Orvis

Seder

(Continued from page 1)

Also, at the Seder, information will be available regarding Sha'ar Zahav's annual Me'ot Chittim appeal, which collects funds to be distributed to various community organizations to help feed the hungry.

So we'll look forward to seeing everyone at Lehr's Greenhouse on April 3. Do note the early start: doors open at 5 pm and the Seder will start at 5:30. There's validated parking at 840 Sutter (carpooling recommended) and several buses stop right at the door. For more information and reservations call the synagogue office; for special requests, call Shirley Liberman, 550-1744.

Classified Ads

ROOMMATE OPPORTUNITY: 2-room suite in spacious Haight-Ashbury Edwardian flat. Long-term or short-term possible. \$425. Jonathan Schwartz, 552-1960.

JOBS WANTED: Skilled and reliable workers for housekeeping, gardening, construction, and janitorial work are available through EMPLEO, a jobs cooperative for Central American refugees. Call 824-3773, Monday to Friday, 9 am to noon. For more information, see the Social Action column in this issue of the *Forward*.

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

Birthdays

- | | |
|----|-------------------|
| 2 | Donald Gordon |
| 5 | Edward Pollack |
| 6 | Adrienne Forshay |
| 7 | Allen Harris |
| 8 | Ann Biderman |
| 8 | Steffan Powers |
| 9 | Andy Zimmerman |
| 9 | Laurie Davis |
| 9 | Jim Dobkins |
| 9 | Perry Paker |
| 10 | Dana Vinicoff |
| 13 | Michael Frank |
| 13 | Stephen Walters |
| 15 | Russell Kassman |
| 15 | Rebecca Swisher |
| 19 | Rachel Wahba |
| 21 | M.C. Abramson |
| 21 | Jeffrey Shuman |
| 23 | Blanche Blachman |
| 24 | Jay Ladin |
| 28 | Francie Hornstein |
| 29 | Bob Gutterman |
| 29 | Harold Parker |
| 30 | Susan Greenspan |

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Va'ad Report

The Va'ad met on Monday, February 8. President Richard Inlander called the meeting to order by reading the following statement: "Tonight the Va'ad of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav convenes in honor of the memory of Cheryl Orvis, our Past President and beloved friend, who served this Congregation well, most recently and proudly as chair of the Past Presidents Council. May her memory be a blessing." Rabbi Kahn referred to Cheryl's memory in a *D'var Torah*. He explained how best to render in English the Hebrew expression *Yehi zecheh tzaddikah livrachah* (May the memory of the righteous be a blessing). He urged that we understand how the memory of a righteous person can be transformed into a blessing.

UAHC Liaison Mike Rankin reported that the UAHC National Committee on AIDS will meet at the synagogue in May, and members of that committee will be invited to CSZ Friday night services. Richard reported that four members of the congregation joined members of six other Reform congregations at the first meeting of the UAHC Northern California AIDS Committee at Temple Emanuel. The next meeting will be on March 24.

Rabbi Kahn reported on the Kaiser AIDS Brunch program. The program serves people with AIDS being treated at Kaiser Hospital, both inpatients and outpatients. Paul Cohen, chair of the Bikkur Cholim Committee, reported the results of the committee's program evaluation. Eric Keitel moved to continue the Brunch Program through August, and to allocate \$1000 from the AIDS Fund to cover all non-contributed expenses. Eric spoke of the value of the program not only for people with AIDS, but also for their families and care-providers—nurses, doctors, hospital staff and volunteers. The Va'ad unanimously approved this motion.

After giving his report as chair as the Finance Committee, which outlined the planning schedule for next year's budget, Don Albert gave a report as chair of the Children's Education Committee. He said Rabbi Kahn had helped the committee reach consensus on its recommendations, which will be presented to the Va'ad in March.

Irene Ogus, CSZ Vice President, presented a written report from the Chanukah Party Committee chaired by Rosa-

linda del Moral. The report was praised as a model of how committee members can assist those who come after them in planning our activities and events.

Richard presented a written motion proposing a procedure for establishing responsibility for final approval of materials published by the congregation. Members, committee chairs, officers and Va'ad members participated in the frank discussion that followed. Some objected to the proposal, while others offered responses to concerns about the risk of censorship. Support for exploring this issue further was also expressed. Eric suggested a committee of the Va'ad to draft guidelines for synagogue publications. Board members Tiela Chalmers, Jay Feinstein, Bob Goldware, Robin Leonard, and Ben Schalit volunteered to meet as such a committee, and will consider the ideas suggested during the discussion.

Richard announced plans for the Congregational Seder, which Shirley Liberman will coordinate. Social Action Committee chair Ami Zusman presented a proposal for Sha'ar Zahav and Ahavat Shalom to cosponsor a cultural and social event for the two congregations. The Va'ad approved the event, which will feature a drive to collect and send books, records and tapes with lesbian and gay themes to Israel.

Robin Leonard commented favorably on the reprinting of Sha'ar Zahav's Friday evening prayerbook, which incorporates a number of important textual revisions and a new cover and binding. Susan Greenspan, Alex Ingersoll, Garry Koenigsberg and Francie McGowan were applauded for their fine work.

In addition to the monthly Va'ad report, complete minutes of the meetings are available to members through the synagogue office. But this report would not be complete without mentioning the end of this long meeting, which we concluded by singing *Oseh Shalom*.

—Ben Schalit, Recorder

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Friday Night Prayerbooks

You may have noticed that the new second edition of our prayerbook is now in use. It includes revisions to the prayer before the Kaddish and a new prayer for healing (no more blue insert!), recognition that we are not all gay or lesbian, and several other changes that will make the book easier to read and longer-lasting. Please don't take the books with you; old ones with the corrections noted are available for sale from the office. A special thank you to Susan Greenspan for the beautiful new cover design.



Notes from the Library

In the past few months, thanks to the generosity of a number of people, the library has grown to include 150 volumes, including video and audio tapes. Much care has gone into creating a broad collection in a limited space. Our library includes the Soncino English-Hebrew Talmud, *Encyclopedia Judaica*, books on everything from Sholom Aleichem to Zionism, and several periodicals. We will soon be able to offer taped selections from the Ritual Committee's collection.

The Education Committee's Passover Brunch (see related article) will be held on March 20. At that time, the library will begin lending out books to CSZ members. You need only show your membership card. Library hours are the same as weekday office hours (see back of newsletter) and 2-4 pm Saturday afternoons.

If you have recommendations, or would like to donate materials, please call the synagogue office or Bill Goldstein at 793-4283.

—Bill Ashley-Dobbin

MARCH

נדר - ניסן

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|---|--|---|--|---|
| | | 12 Adar 1 Jewish Life Cycles, 7:45pm | 13 2 Erev Purim Services, 7:30pm | 14 3 Purim | 15 4 Services, 8:15pm | 16 5 Family Chavurah Purim Service & Potluck, 2838 Atwell, Oakland, 4pm |
| 17 6 Super Sunday, Fairmont Hotel, 864-5331 or 621-7561 | 18 7 HIV Support Group, contact Rabbi Kahn Education Comm., 7:30pm | 19 8 Jewish Life Cycles, 7:45pm | 20 9 Newsletter Comm., 7:30pm Soviet Vigil, Green & Baker, 11:30am | 21 10 Social Action Comm., 7:30pm | 22 11 Services, 8:15pm | 23 12 |
| 24 13 Ensemble Rehearsal, 4 pm | 25 14 Va'ad Meeting, 6:30pm Newsletter Deadline | 26 15 Jewish Gay Theater, Michael Zimmerman, 8pm Jewish Life Cycles, 7:45pm | 27 16 | 28 17 Bikkur Cholim, 7:30pm | 29 18 Services, 8:15pm | 1 Nisan 19 Rosh Chodesh |
| 2 20 Education Comm. Passover Brunch, noon | 3 21 HIV Support Group, contact Rabbi Kahn | 4 22 Jewish Life Cycles, 7:45pm | 5 23 | 6 24 | 7 25 Sanctuary Shabbat Service, 8:15pm, Manlio Argueto, speaker | 8 26 Morning Services, 10:30am |
| 9 27 Kaiser Brunch, 10:30am Ensemble Rehearsal, 4pm | 10 28 Candidates Petition Deadline | 11 29 Jewish Life Cycles, 7:45pm | 12 30 | 13 31 Ritual Comm., 6:30pm Newsletter Mailing, 11 Grandview Terr., 7:30pm | | |

Ritual Calendar

Wednesday, March 2

Erev Purim Services, 7:30 pm
Rabbi Yoel Kahn & Daniel Chesir

Friday, March 4

Parashah: Ki Tisa
Garry Koenigsberg

Friday, March 11

Shabbat Parah
Parashah: Vayakhel/Pekudei
Rabbi Yoel Kahn & Sue Douglass

Friday, March 18

Shabbat Hachodesh
Shabbat Rosh Chodesh Nisan
Parashah: Vayikrah
Mike Rankin

Friday, March 25

Shabbat Hagadol
Parashah: Tzav
Rabbi Yoel Kahn & Jose Luis
Moscovich
The Torah will be read.

Saturday, March 26

Saturday morning services, 10:30 am
Rabbi Yoel Kahn

Friday, April 1

Erev Pesach, First Seder
NO SERVICES AT CSZ

Saturday, April 2

Second Seder
Congregational Seder at Lehr's
Greenhouse, 5:30 pm (doors open at
5:00 pm)

Friday, April 8

Parashah: Shemini
Garry Koenigsberg

Family Chavurah

Purim Celebration

The Family/Children's Havurah will host a Purim service and potluck on Saturday, March 5 at 4 pm, at 2838 Atwell Ave. in Oakland.

The Purimspiel, to be delivered by our beloved Rabbi, will begin at 4:30 pm. A grand march of all in costume and lots of music will follow.

We'll provide the groggers and the hamentaschen; bring yourselves, your children in costume, and (of course) some food to share.

Call the synagogue office or 534-2339 to R.S.V.P. or for more information.

Social Action

Campaigns on Many Fronts

The Social Action Committee is working on several projects—ranging from AIDS legislation to support for Central American refugees. Join us in working on any of these projects.

Fighting La Rouche—And Developing a Constructive AIDS Agenda: Jonathan Mesinger and Lawney Baldwin are spearheading Sha'ar Zahav's efforts to defeat the "Son of La Rouche" initiative on the June 1988 ballot. This measure, virtually identical to Proposition 64 in November 1986, would subject carriers of the HIV virus to quarantine and isolation. Sha'ar Zahav will work with other organizations, and within the Jewish community, to mobilize support against the measure. At the same time, activists are working to develop a positive agenda for fighting AIDS, such as January's Act Up demonstration at Burroughs-Wellcome headquarters and a proposed November 1988 ballot initiative to give state tax credits to those who contribute to AIDS research. We will be working with other groups to consider and promote constructive AIDS efforts.

If you want to help fight the June measure or provide input in developing a positive AIDS agenda, call Jonathan (255-0468) or Lawney (841-8523).

Jobs for Central American Refugees: Because many Central American refugees have difficulty finding jobs once they reach the Bay Area, refugees, with the support of the San Francisco Jewish Sanctuary Coalition and other Sanctuary organizations, have founded EMPLEO, a new job cooperative. Skilled

and reliable men and women are available in fields such as house cleaning, gardening, construction and janitorial work. Recommended hourly rate is \$5.40 with an additional 10% contribution to the co-op encouraged. For further information, call EMPLEO at 824-3773, Monday to Friday, 9 am to noon. EMPLEO is based on the highly successful MANOS Project in the East Bay; MANOS can be reached at 540-6266.

Special Sanctuary Shabbat Service: To celebrate the second anniversary of CSZ's becoming a Sanctuary Congregation, the Social Action Committee will sponsor a special Shabbat evening service on Friday, March 25, to recognize and support refugees fleeing violence and persecution in their homelands. This is "Shabbat Hagadol," the Shabbat before Passover, when Jews celebrate our own deliverance from persecution. We hope you will join us.

Book Drive for Lesbians and Gays in Israel: Save the date of Sunday, May 1, 4 to 7 pm. That's when we plan a joint cultural event with Congregation Ahavat Shalom to collect and donate books, records or tapes with gay or lesbian themes to send to lesbians and gays living in Israel. We plan an afternoon of slide presentations on gay/lesbian life in Israel, folkdancing, eating, drinking and talking. More details next month.

The next Social Action Committee meeting is Thursday, March 10, 7:30 pm at CSZ. Join us to work on these projects—or to bring ideas for new ones.

—Ami Zusman and Russell Discher

Naches

Congratulations to Laurie Davis on her graduation from New College of California.

Congratulations also to Ora Prochovnick and Marilyn Kalman, whose firm, Bayside Legal Advocates, was named a winner of the 1987 Bar Association of San Francisco awards for outstanding firms.

Cheryl Price and Shelley Montgomery are co-parents of Jacob Ross Montgomery, who was born on January 29. Rabbi Kahn officiated at Jacob's brit and naming on February 14 at Sha'ar Zahav.

Congratulations to George Lucas and Tom Rothgiesser on their new house.

Oneg Sponsors

During January onegs were sponsored by the following generous people:

- 8 Allan Berenstein, in honor of Matt & Justin's birthdays
- 15 Blanche Blachman, in memory of her father, Ben Blachman
- 22 Nancy Snow & Dana Vinicoff, in honor of their second anniversary

All you have to do to sponsor an oneg is to think of the occasion and contact the synagogue office (861-6932). The cost of sponsoring a complete oneg is \$80 or, for partial sponsorship, \$50. You can also provide the food, flowers, etc. for a more personal touch.

Condolences

We at Congregation Sha'ar Zahav extend our sympathy to the following members who have suffered a recent loss.

To Allan Gold on the recent loss of his aunt, Adeline Brilliant.

To the congregation on the recent loss of our member, Cheryl Orvis.

To Bob Gutterman on the recent loss of his mother.

To Sandra Butler on the recent loss of her lover Barbara Rosenblum.

To Rick Crane on the recent loss of his lover, Gary Starliper.

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Contributions

Sha'ar Zahav welcomes all contributions, of all sizes, to mark any event, and to any of our funds. Contributions will be acknowledged in the *Forward* unless requested otherwise.

Donations were made to Sha'ar Zahav's funds in the past months by the following contributors:

General Fund

Emily Rosenberg, in honor of Marilyn Braiger

Karen Strauss, in honor of her grandmother, Hannah Benedict Newman

Howard Weiner

Patricia Wade

Melissa Daar

Betty Kalis & Marion Trentman, in honor of the birthdays of Jacqueline Letalien, Mike Rankin & Isabel Fishman

Tristano Palermino & David Glassberg, in honor of their first year anniversary

Joan Kerr, in honor of CSZ in appreciation of the warm welcome showed to me in 1987 & the mitzvah of worshipping together

Mr. & Mrs. M. Lofchie, in honor of our daughter Sandra Lofchie, for Chanukah

Phylece Snyder

In memory of Cheryl Orvis

David Hyman

Eric Keitel & Aaron Cooper

Irene Ogus

Eli Weinstein

Prudence Carter

Ben Schalit

Steve Greenberg, in honor of Eric Keitel's speedy recovery

Rick Crane & Gary Starliper, in honor of the Bikkur Cholim Committee with appreciation for the small kindnesses that made such a big difference

AIDS Fund

Paul Glackman

Russell Tat

Frank Masson

Garry Koenigsberg, in honor of Alex ("don't call me Chief") Ingersoll's spectacular performance as *Forward* editor

Aaron Cooper, in honor of Eric Keitel's swift recovery from surgery

Building Fund

In memory of Cheryl Orvis

Enoch Harrison

Marion Trentman & Betty Kalis

Jonathan Schwartz

Peter Vishniac

Jenny Helbraun

Alex Ingersoll & David Stein

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Sue Weinstein & Shelley Weinstein, in appreciation of Rabbi Kahn & in honor of their union

Barbara Rosenblum

In memory of Cheryl Orvis

Leila Raim

Betty Kalis & Marion Trentman

Janice Macomber

Edward Pollock, in memory of Allan Ellis

Prayerbook Fund

Jon Funk, in honor of Eric's speedy recovery, and in memory of Cheryl Orvis

Steve Greenberg, in appreciation of Leslie Bergson

Education Fund

Susan Greenspan, in memory of the passing of Devorah's father, in honor of Larry Cohen becoming an attorney, & thank you Rosalinda for a great Chanukah party

Social Action Fund

Steve Greenberg, in memory of Cheryl Orvis

New Members

The Membership Committee is pleased to announce that our congregation gained several new members in February. A warm welcome to the latest people to join our family:

Sandra Butler & Barbara Rosenblum

Alan Matcovsky

Paul Quin & Steven Unger

New members are welcomed and honored at Friday night services on the last Friday of the month. By making them feel a part of our family, we can all help to show our new members that they have a valuable place at Sha'ar Zahav.

Rabbinical Student Visits

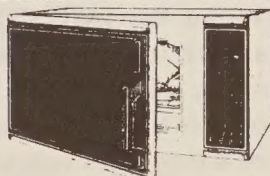
Welcome to Sharon Kleinbaum, a rabbinical student at the reconstructionist Rabbinical College in Philadelphia, who will be visiting us during the week of March 29. She will be doing a week-long internship with Rabbi Kahn as part of her studies.

Hillel Women's Conference

The Berkeley Hillel, in cooperation with the Berkeley/Richmond Jewish Community Center and the *Jewish Women's Newsletter*, is sponsoring "Drawing From the Well: Jewish Women and Spirituality," March 11-13. The conference will take place at Berkeley Hillel, 2736 Bancroft Way. For more information, call 845-7793.

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An Obvious Phake on Phelan

Dear Obvious,

Achashveros, the cruel Persian King, had commanded the Jews to make hamentashen without prunes. "But poppy seeds are so binding," we protested. Whereupon a mighty hand appeared in the king's palace, pasting flocked wallpaper upon the wall. None of the viziers could interpret the vision, until Natania the therapist was brought before the king and asked, "Why don't we talk about what *you* think it means?" Whereupon the king decreed that she was to be seated upon the royal chariot, clothed in glorious raiment, and dropped off a cliff.

So for seven days each summer, Jews eat bagels, one more bagel for each night of the holiday, to mark the importance of whole wheat grains in a well-balanced religion. And that is the story of Purim.

Aunt Yente

Dear Aunt Yente,

No it isn't. You are supposed to be an important new figure in Jewish education. Why are you making fun of a major holiday?

Kvetching on Kirkham

Dear Kvetch,

This is Aunt Yente's fifth column from Purim (can you believe, we begin now a fifth year of food jokes?) So if by now her kinderlach don't know that what to expect, so Aunt Yente is going back to her flanken (which also don't write her letters, but are *zehr* less critical).

Aunt Yente

Dear Aunt Yente,

I am going this spring to visit with my lover's family, who live in a place called Indiana. (I didn't think he was serious, but he insists that's what it's called.) I've certainly never been any place like that before; is there a special blessing I should say?

Bewildered from Brooklyn

Dear Bewildered,

Your question has puzzled some of

the finest talmudic minds of our generation (when they weren't busy examining Ezekiel's vision of the wheel for a hint on next week's lotto numbers). So it used to be that midwestern *lantzpersons* all wore the same kind leisure suits, so you could make the blessing over polyester (which, like the motzie before a meal, includes everything that comes after). That blessing, as you know, is Bless You She, Therapist of the Universe, who creates the fruit of the loom. But now that people from all over can look like they came from Brooklyn (this was also in Ezekiel's vision, but he didn't write it down because it was too terrifying), so a new blessing is needed.

So, there is the example from Rabbi Litvak, who came to Minnesota during his long and sacred pilgrimage to protest secular divorce (closely followed by Rebbitzen Litvak and her alimony lawyer). He kissed the ground and said, "Blessed is the One who made loopholes in the extradition laws." This does not appear to apply in your case. Nor is there *takke* much help in the tale of Rabbi Daniel Hacohen, who—from the top of the arch in Saint (you should pardon the expression) Louis—recited the heartfelt, "O God, please don't let the bagels here be even worse than in San Francisco," but his prayer went unanswered.

So all Aunt Yente can suggest is that you concentrate on showing a nice big smile, and on experiencing the blessing of a broadened outlook. Then, when you return to Brooklyn, you can go back to all the standard blessings of the region (the ones that begin "Hey You, God!").

Aunt Yente

P.S. Not that Aunt Yente would encourage you to eat anything you shouldn't while you are out there, but if you do wind up eating abominations, Aunt Yente has been told that the honeybaked abominations are *eppes* the best kind.

Aunt Yente loves to receive your questions about Jewish law and ritual matters, and tries to answer as many as she can in her column (but a guarantee she doesn't make.) Just write her c/o the Forward, 220 Danvers Street., San Francisco, CA 94114. All material © 1988 Congregation Sha'ar Zahav.

Yahrzeits

- 2 Fannie Leiss, mother of Walt Leiss
- 2 Mona Shapiro, niece of Marilyn Braiger
- 3 Leonard Finkelstein, father of Jo Ann Finkelstein
- 4 Rachel Zellerbach, grandmother of Walter Palmer
- 5 (Adar 16) Joseph M. Cohen, father of Paul Cohen
- 5 (Adar 16) Mollie Podgur, mother of Hal Podgur
- 6 Pearl Lewin, grandmother of Richard Inlander
- 6 (Adar 17) Helen Pechter, mother of Bernard Pechter
- 6 (Adar 17) Sam Schwartz, father of Paul Schwartz
- 7 Bennett Hornstein, brother of Francie Hornstein
- 8 Isidore Shapiro, father of Marilyn Braiger
- 9 Arthur Bellm, grandfather of Dan Bellm
- 10 Bob Daltario, friend of Richard Inlander
- 11 Hannah Goodman, aunt of Eric Keitel
- 11 Susan Palmer, sister of Walter Palmer
- 12 Helen Coleman, friend of Pamela Mara Singer
- 15 Axel Schoenberg, grandfather of Johanna Johnson
- 16 Ted Mendonca, member of the congregation & lover of Richard Inlander
- 16 Ariel Thal, father of Sam Thal
- 18 Joseph Hornstein, father of Francie Hornstein
- 20 Minnie Tonn, grandmother of Allan Gold
- 21 Steven Clarfield, cousin of Jeff Presement
- 21 Alan Vinicoff, father of Dana Vinicoff
- 22 Sylvia Vogel, mother of Lee Vogel
- 27 Sarah Goldman, grandmother of Jeff Presement
- 27 James Robert Rankin, father of Mike Rankin & Sylvia Webb
- 28 Minnie Prengler, aunt of Ann Biderman
- 30 Rebecca Dunn, grandmother of Eileen Dunn
- 30 Abraham Kramer, grandfather of Steven Cronenwalt

Sha'ar Zahav Funds

Sha'ar Zahav's health is founded on a good spiritual and fiscal base. The Finance Committee wishes to remind all members and friends of the congregation of the various funds that are available for your support. Any reason is a good reason for contributions: a birthday, anniversary, yahrzeit, simcha, etc., etc. You may specify which fund your gift is to be dedicated to. Our funds are:

The General Fund: underwrite the ongoing activities and committee programs of the congregation.

The Building Fund: mortgage payments and building improvements.

The Education Fund: cover the costs of teachers for classes, books and learning materials, film programs, lecturer stipends, etc.

The Harvey Milk Social Action Fund: contributions to social causes that the synagogue wishes to lend support to—for example, aid to Ethiopian Jewry, Soviet Jewry, and San Francisco Jewish Family and Children's Services.

The Library Fund: development of a reference library for our congregation.

The AIDS Fund: assistance of members and friends diagnosed with AIDS and support of AIDS-related educational and humanitarian projects in our community.

The Prayer Book Fund: underwrite the costs of writing, revising and publishing our prayerbooks.

The Rabbi's Discretionary Fund: supports *tzedakah* and special needs in the congregation and the community.

The Torah Fund: purchase of a new torah and adornments for our congregation.

Contributions are acknowledged by letter and in the *Forward*, and the person being honored also receives a card announcing the gift. All donations to Sha'ar Zahav are tax deductible.



To Order:

OUT OF OUR KITCHEN CLOSETS San Francisco Gay Jewish Cooking

Number of Books _____ at \$12.95 _____

California residents must add sales tax _____

Shipping and handling, first book \$1.75

Each additional book at \$.75 _____

TOTAL _____

Make check payable to *Congregation Sha'ar Zahav* and mail with this form to:

220 Danvers, San Francisco, CA 94114

Ship to: Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State/Zip _____



Super Sunday Celebration

CSZ's contingent at the Jewish Community Federation annual telethon will be headed by Jose Luis Moscovich and Nathan Robinson. If you would like to join our group on March 6 to help raise funds for Jewish Community activities in San Francisco, Marin and the Peninsula, contact Jose Luis (864-5331) or Nathan (621-7561). There's lots to do, from direct telephone solicitation to writing thank-you notes. CSZ benefits from the many activities supported by the Federation, and this is a chance to contribute to its support.

SPONSOR AN ONEG!

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celebrate a special occasion.



San Francisco's Largest Selection of Quality Danish Pastry

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Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

שַׁעַר זָהָב

220 DANVERS AT CASELLI, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94114

(415) 861-6932

Rabbi Yoel Kahn

Officers:

President, Richard Inlander
Vice President, Irene Ogus
Treasurer, Eric Keitel
Recorder, Ben Schalit

Va'ad (Board) Members:

Tiela Chalmers
Jay Feinstein
Robert Goldware
Betty Kalis
Garry Koenigsberg
Ellen Kugler
Robin Leonard
Alita Rosenfeld
Susan Talley

Services are held every Friday evening beginning at 8:15 pm (except as noted), with an Oneg Shabbat following services. Services are generally held on the last Saturday of each month at 10:30 am — check calendar for each month.

Committee Chairs:

Bikkur Cholim, Paul Cohen
Brotherhood, by committee
Building, David Gellman
Bylaws, Richard Inlander
Family/Children's Havurah, Sue Douglass & Jill Rose
Education, Bill Goldstein
Finance, Don Albert
Membership, Merry Luskin
Newsletter, by committee
Oneg, Bill Ashley-Dobbin & Lawney Baldwin
Past Presidents Council, Daniel Chesir
Public Relations, Sharyn Saslafsky & Andy Zimmerman
Ritual, Steve Greenberg
Social Action, Ami Zusman
Social Program, by committee
Women's Havurah, by committee

Data Managers:

Alita Rosenfeld
Jerry Rosenstein

Office Managers:

Jenny Helbraun
Jacqueline Letalien

Office Hours: M, 9:30–5; Tu, Th, F, 9:30–2; W, 9:30–6.

Emergency Number: In an emergency, the Congregation can be contacted outside of office hours by calling 420-9718.

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav (Congregation of the Golden Gate) is located in the Upper Market District of San Francisco at 220 Danvers at Caselli, which is one block south of the intersection of 18th & Market streets. By public transport, take MUNI bus 33 Ashbury to 18th & Danvers and walk one block south on Danvers to Caselli.

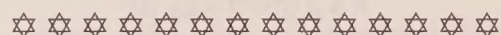
Member Union of American Hebrew Congregations (Mike Rankin, Liaison) and World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations (Ora Prochovnick, Liaison).

A Taste of Italy

Taste Passover in Italy at noon on Sunday, March 20. The Education Committee is sponsoring a unique Passover workshop at the synagogue which will feature a cooking demonstration by chef Robert Nacamulli. Mr. Nacamulli has chosen a traditional dish of the Venetian Jewish community "melanzane alla maniera ebraica."

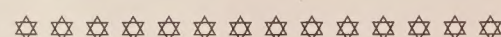
The fabled Jewish community in Venice contributed much to the splendor of Venice. It was the Jews who introduced eggplant (or melanzane) into Italian cuisine. Melanzane was enjoyed throughout the year, but the dish chef Nacamulli will demonstrate was especially enjoyed during Passover.

Naturally, this is not all that will be served that Sunday. Since this is a brunch, we are asking you to bring a favorite dish of your own for others to share. *Buon Appetito!*



Gay Theater and Jews

Gay Theater—is it good for Jews? The Education Committee hopes so but invites you to find out for yourself on Tuesday night, March 15. At 8 pm at Sha'ar Zahav, this topic will be explored by San Francisco playwright and theater director Michael Zimmerman. For several years, Mr. Zimmerman has been associated with Theatre Rhinoceros. He is the author of the successful comedy "What's a Mother to Do?" and last season Theatre Rhinoceros produced his comedy about gays and Jewish mothers. So who better to tell us about "Gay Theater—is it good for Jews?". The program is free but a small donation would be appreciated.



Election Committee

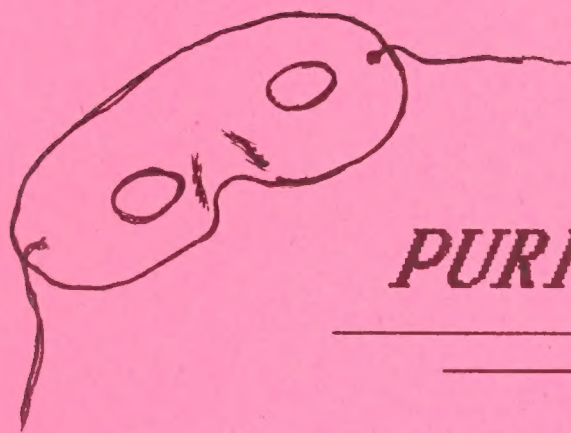
Election Date Set

The date for the annual election has been set by the Va'ad for Sunday, May 15. The Election Committee is in the process of finalizing the list of candidates for offices and the five Va'ad positions, to be completed by March 1 and announced at the March Va'ad meeting.

All members are reminded that in addition to the slate established by the committee, candidates may be added to the slate by submitting a petition to the committee through the synagogue office. The deadline for petitions is Monday, March 28.

Once the ballot is finalized, all members will receive election materials including candidates' statements, the date for Candidates Night at the shul, and instructions for requesting and returning absentee ballots.

—Allan Gold



PURIM: A Bissel Bazaar

**Saturday, March 5, 1988
8 - 11 P.M.**

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav



Come dressed as your favorite Purim Character

**Your chance to play the part of your dreams, maybe.
No auditions. Casting: 8:00**

**Middle Eastern nosherei and Hamentashen for sale
(Come early for the lowest prices)**

DANCING!

On Purim we are expected to send gifts to the needy (Esther 9:22). In the spirit of the holiday, please bring food or household items for people with AIDS and/or make a donation at the door to our AIDS fund.

Call Steve Elman to volunteer 651-5857



Congregation Sha'ar Zahav
CONGREGATIONAL SEDER RESERVATION FORM

Saturday, April 2, 5 pm
Lehr's Greenhouse Restaurant
750 Sutter Street

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number(s): _____

Please reserve the following number of places for:

_____ Members (\$20 each)

_____ Non-members (\$22 each)

_____ Children under twelve (\$8 each)

Please indicate your choice of entrees (number of each):

_____ Roast chicken

_____ Smoked cross-rib of beef

_____ Frittata (vegetarian)

Our synagogue subsidizes the cost of the Seder for children and individuals unable to afford the full cost. Can you help with this?

I wish to donate \$_____ toward Seder subsidies.

My check for \$_____ is enclosed.

Please charge \$_____ to my Visa or MasterCard as follows:

Visa # _____ Exp. _____

MC # _____ Exp. _____

MC Interbank # (4 digits) _____

Signature: _____

**Mail to: Congregational Seder
Congregation Sha'ar Zahav
220 Danvers Street
San Francisco, CA 94114**

All reservation forms must be received by Friday, March 25.

Tickets will be held at the door.

Signing for the hearing-impaired can be requested when reservation is made.

Information will be available at the Seder regarding CSZ's annual Passover Me'ot Chittim appeal, which collects funds to be distributed to various community organizations to help feed the hungry.

